

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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AID-05 OMB-01 /084 W

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O P 021330Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9652

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU RORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL BOMBAY PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MADRAS PRIORITY

USLO PEKING PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 8835

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINS, PINT, IN

SUBJ: CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION

SUMMARY: CONGEN REPORTS AND INFORMATION ACQUIRED FROM
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EMBASSY SOURCES INDICATES THAT THE LAW AND ORDER SITUATION

IN THE COUNTRY REMAINS NORMAL, THOUGH OFFICIALS ARE PRIVATELY EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF VIOLENCE WHEN SCHOOLS OPEN LATER THIS MONTH. THE PRESIDENT HAS ISSUED AN ORDINANCE LIMITING THE RIGHTS OF SMUGGLERS AND EXCHANGE RACKETEERS. THE GOVERNMENT IS PICKING UP MORE CPM POLITICIANS AND PARTY WORKERS. DMK NEWSPAPERS AND POLITICIANS ARE CONTINUING THEIR CRITICISM OF MRS GANDHI AND THE EMERGENCY, THOUGH IN A LOWER KEY. CONGEN AND EMBASSY OFFICERS AND WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS CONTINUE TO HEAR RUMORS THAT CHIEF JUSTICE A.N. RAY HAS RESIGNED. A GOVERNMENT NEWS RELEASE ANNOUNCED THAT J.P. NARAYAN WAS HOSPITALIZED IN DELHI FOR A "CHECK-UP" AND HAS SINCE BEEN MOVED ELSEWHERE. END SUMMARY.

1. CONGEN REPORTS AND INFORMATION ACQUIRED FROM EMBASSY SOURCES INDICATES THAT THE LAW AND ORDER SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY REMAINS NORMAL, THOUGH OFFICIALS ARE PRIVATELY EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF VIOLENCE WHEN SCHOOLS REOPEN LATER THIS MONTH. PRESIDENT AHMED ISSUED A NEW ORDINANCE JULY 1 GIVING THE GOI WIDE POWERS TO DETAIN SMUGGLERS AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE RACKETEERS WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE GROUNDS OF DETENTION. ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER REPORTS, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AROUND THE COUNTRY ARE ISSUING ORDINANCES PROHIBITING PUBLIC GATHERINGS OF MORE THAN FIVE PEOPLE. ARRESTS ARE ALSO CONTINUING WITH THE EMPHASIS SWITCHING FROM THE PRO-J.P.L.M NARAYAN "PEOPLES FRONT" LEADERS TO CPM POLITICIANS. CONGEN CALCUTTA REPORTS THAT IT HAS BEEN RELIABLY INFORMED AT LEAST ONE CPM CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER AND 200 SECOND OR THIRD ECHELON PARTY WORKERS HAVE BEEN PICKED UP. THE WELL-INFORMED CHIEF EDITOR OF THE INDIAN EXPRESS GROUP OF NEWSPAPERS TOLD AN EMBASSY JULY 2 THAT THERE HAVE BEEN CPM ARRESTS IN KERALA AS WELL AND CONGEN MADRAS REPORTS A CPM NEWSPAPER ALSO REFERS TO SUCH ARRESTS. THE EDITOR CLAIMED THAT TOTAL ARRESTS UNDER THE EMERGENCY AROUND THE COUNTRY NOW EXCEED 7,000, UNDER ALL TYPES OF CHARGES.

2. CONGEN MADRAS REPORTS THAT DMK POLITICIANS AND NEWSPAPERS IN TAMIL NADU ARE CONTINUING TO CRITICIZE MRS GANDHI AND THE EMERGENCY, THOUGH IN A LOWER KEY. THE DMK NEWS-CONFIDENTIAL

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PAPER MURASOLI ON JULY 2 FRONT-PAGED A SPEECH BY THE DMK STATE EDUCATION MINISTER APPEALING TO MRS GANDHI TO PRESERVE DEMOCRACY, LIFT THE EMERGENCY AND RELEASE ARRESTED LEADERS." THE DMK LEADER IN THE LOK SABHA TOLD A WHITE COLLAR AUDIENCE IN MADRAS JULY 2 THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR A SECOND EMERGENCY TO IMPLEMENT THE PRIME MINISTER'S ECONOMIC PROGRAM. HE DEMANDED THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS, COMMENTING THAT " I AM PREPARED TO FACE THE CONSEQUENCES FOR

TELLING THE TRUTH AND UPHOLDING DEMOCRACY." CONGRESS (O)
LEADER K. KAMARAJ IS CONTINUING HIS ANTI-EMERGENCY SPEECHES.

3. BOTH CONGEN AND EMBASSY OFFICERS AND WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS
CONTINUE TO PICK UP RUMORS THAT CHIEF JUSTICE A.N. RAY HAS
RESIGNED. THE INDIAN EXPRESS CHIEF EDITOR STATED THAT THE
SUPREME COURT REGISTRAR WHO SHOULD KNOW PLEADS IGNORANCE
WHEN CONTACTED, AND GOI LAW MINISTER GOKHOLE DOES NOT
RESPOND TO QUERIES. SOME SPECULATE RAY SUBMITTED HIS
RESIGNATION BUT IT HAS NOT BEEN ACCEPTED. RAY IS REPORTED
IN THE PRESS AS HAVING GIVEN A SPEECH IN BANGALORE JUNE 30,
WHERE HE WAS STILL IDENTIFIED AS CHIEF JUSTICE.

4. A JULY 1 GOVERNMENT HANDOUT CARRIED IN THIS MORNING'S
NEWSPAPERS STATES THAT J.P. NARAYAN WAS ADMITTED TO THE
ALL-INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS) FOR A
CHECK-UP AND THEN RELEASED. THE HANDOUT STATED THAT
NARAYAN HAD BEEN EXAMINED AT THE INSTITUTE TWO MONTHS
AGO AND ADDED: "HE IS NOW FOUND TO BE MAINTAINING THE
SAME STATE OF HEALTH." A HIGH LEVEL MEDICAL SOURCE
AT THE AIIMS TOLD AN EMBOFF JULY 2 THAT NARAYAN WAS IN THE
INTENSIVE CARE UNIT FOR TWO DAYS BECAUSE OF HEART COMPLI-
CATIONS. HE HAS PROBABLY NOW BEEN SHIFTED TO LOCAL QUARTERS
WITH EASY ACCESS TO THE HSOPITAL. (NOTE: AS WE HAVE RE-
PORTED EARLIER, NARAYAN HAS A HISTROY OF HEART DISEASE
GROWING OUT OF A MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION SUFFERED SOME
YEARS AGO.) THERE ARE ALSO REPORTS THAT J.PLM MAY BE
MOVED TO THE NANITAL HILL STATION FOR HEALTH REASONS.
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